

Prior Isogon patents have described techniques for performing software auditing, including the steps of Surveying (scanning all hard-drives or disk storage for modules), Identification (deciding, for each module on each library, what software product it belongs to) and Monitoring (intercepting and recording all module executions). As described in those patents, and as practiced by Isogon's software auditing product, SoftAudit, the steps of Surveying, Identification, and Monitoring are both interrelated and separate processes.

The SoftAudit Monitor is also described in the present Assignee's issued United States Patent No. 5,590,056, the contents of which are incorporated by reference herein. The SoftAudit Monitor collects usage data for (virtually) every load module executed within the system (image, LPAR). This usage data is correlated to survey and identification data to ultimately determine and report which software products, and the libraries in which they are installed, have and have not been used.

For the MVS and OS/390 operating systems, it does this by intercepting the LOAD, LINK, ATTACH, and XCTL system functions. Whenever such a function is invoked, the Monitor creates an entry in a memory table which relates the module usage to the job/job step/started task/TSO session (hereinafter, process) for which the module was loaded. Eventually, the usage data is written to external media (either when the memory buffer needs to be reclaimed, or on an hourly basis) and subsequently correlated with other data as previously described.